

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A compound selected from compounds capable of binding to hormone receptors, ~~and~~ in that it comprises a nitrogen monoxide-donor nitric ester group, with the exception of estradiol substituted in the 11- and/or 17-position with a nitric ester group, and that this compound is chosen from the group consisting of progesterone, 17OH-progesterone, estradiol, ethynyl estradiol, aldosterone, spironolactone, drospirenone and cyproterone.

Claim 2 (previously presented) A compound of claim 1, wherein the hormone receptors are selected from the group consisting of steroid receptors, retinoid receptors and vitamin D derivative receptors.

Claim 3 (previously presented) A compound of claim 1 wherein the compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is a natural hormone.

Claim 4 (previously presented) A compound of claim 1 wherein the compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is a synthetic hormone.

Cancel **Claim 5**.

Cancel **Claim 6**.

Claim 7 (previously presented) A compound of claim 1 comprising at least one NO₂ group bonded to the hormone directly via the oxygen atom of the enolic form or by benzyloxy.

Claim 8 (previously presented) A compound of claim 1 wherein the NO₂ group(s) is (are) bonded directly to the hormone via the oxygen atom of the enolic form of the hormone.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A compound of claim 1 wherein the NO₂ group(s) is (are) bonded to the hormone by benzyloxy.

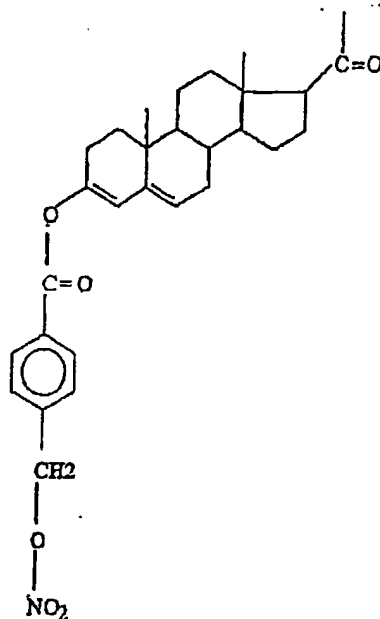
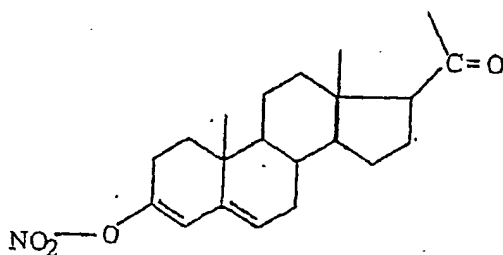
Claim 10 (previously presented) A compound of claim 9, wherein the benzyloxy is bonded to the hormone by a group that establishes a bridge.

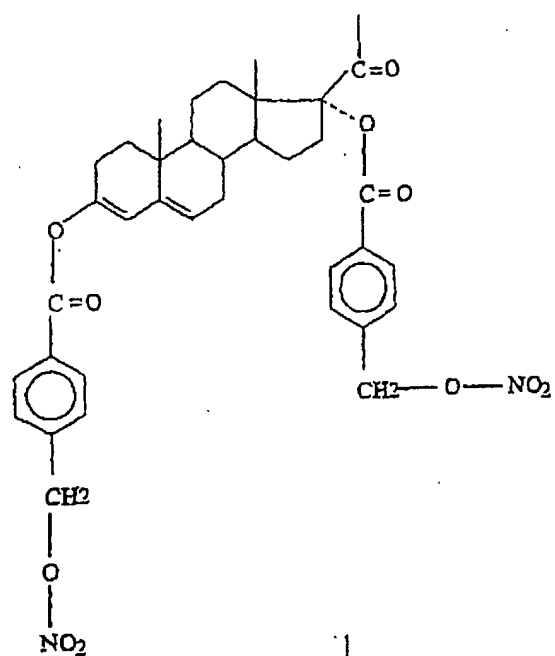
Claim 11 (previously presented) A compound of claim 10, wherein the bridge is C=O or COO.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A compound of claim 1 wherein the ~~hormone~~ compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is progesterone.

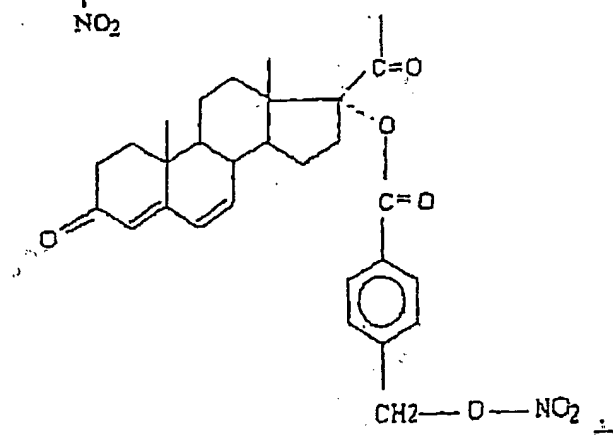
Claim 13 (currently amended) A compound of claim 1 wherein the hormone compound capable of binding to hormone receptors is 17OH-progesterone.

Claim 14 (currently amended) A compound of claim 7, wherein it has a formula selected from the group consisting of





and



Cancel Claims 15 to 21.

Claims 22-33 (cancelled).

Claim 34 (previously presented) A composition to prevent premature births comprising an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to prevent premature births and an inert pharmaceutical carrier.

Claim 35 (currently amended) A method of preventing premature births in women comprising administering to women ~~comprising administering to women~~ in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to prevent premature births.

Claim 36 (previously presented) A method of controlling uterine mobility in women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to control uterine mobility.

Claim 37 (previously presented) A method of increasing cervical dilation during labor in women comprising administering to women in need thereof of an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to increase cervical dilation.

Claim 38 (previously presented) A method of treating uterine contraction anomalies in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to treat uterine contraction anomalies.

Claim 39 (previously presented) A method of treating dysmenorrhea in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to treat dysmenorrhea.

Claim 40 (previously presented) A method of hormone replacement in menopausal comprising administering to menopausal women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient for hormone replacement.

Claim 41 (previously presented) A method of treating arterial hypertension in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to treat arterial hypertension.

Claim 42 (previously presented) A method of inducing an endometrial cycle in assisted reproduction in women comprising administering to women in need thereof an amount of a compound of claim 1 sufficient to induce an endometrial cycle.